

DISCLAIMER

This report and recommendations have been written as part of the activities of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, a public advisory committee providing independent advice and recommendations on the issue of environmental justice to the Administrator and other officials of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

This report has not been reviewed for approval by the EPA, and hence, its contents and recommendations do not necessarily represent the views and the policies of the Agency, nor of other agencies in the Executive Branch of the federal government.

# UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CHARTER

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## NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL

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**1. Committee's Official Designation (Title):**

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council

**2. Authority:**

This charter renews the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. 2 § 9 (c). NEJAC is in the public interest and supports EPA in performing its duties and responsibilities.

**3. Objectives and Scope of Activities:**

NEJAC shall provide independent advice and recommendations to the Administrator on areas relating to environmental justice that may include:

- a. Advice on EPA's framework development for integrating socioeconomic programs into strategic planning, annual planning, and management accountability for achieving environmental justice results agency-wide.
- b. Advice on measuring and evaluating EPA's progress, quality, and adequacy in planning, developing, and implementing environmental justice strategies, projects, and programs.
- c. Advice on EPA's existing and future information management systems, technologies, and data collection, as well as recommendations to conduct analyses that support and strengthen environmental justice programs in administrative and scientific areas.
- d. Advice to help develop, facilitate, and conduct reviews of the direction, criteria, scope, and adequacy of the EPA's scientific research and demonstration projects relating to environmental justice.
- e. Advice for improving how the EPA and others participate, cooperate, and communicate within the Agency and between other Federal agencies, State, or local governments, Federally recognized Tribes, environmental justice leaders, interest groups, and the public.

- f. Advice regarding EPA's administration of grant programs relating to environmental justice assistance (not to include the review or recommendations of individual grant proposals or awards).
- g. Advice regarding EPA's awareness, education, training, and other outreach activities involving environmental justice.

**4. Description of Committees Duties:**

The duties of the NEJAC are solely advisory in nature.

**5. Official(s) to Whom the Committee Reports:**

The NEJAC will provide advice and recommendations, and report to the EPA Administrator through the Office of Environmental Justice, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.

**6. Agency Responsible for Providing the Necessary Support:**

EPA will be responsible for financial and administrative support. Within EPA, this support will be provided by the Office of Environmental Justice, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.

**7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Work Years:**

The estimated annual operating cost of NEJAC is \$824,455.00, which includes 3.8 person-years of support.

**8. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:**

The NEJAC may meet twice a year. Meetings may occur approximately once every 6 months or as needed and approved by the Director of the Office of Environmental Justice, who serves as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO), or his/her designee. EPA may pay travel and per diem expenses when determined necessary and appropriate. A full-time, or permanent part-time, employee of EPA will be appointed as the DFO. The DFO, or a designee, will be present at all meetings, and each meeting will be conducted in accordance with an agenda approved in advance by the DFO. The DFO is authorized to adjourn any meeting when he or she determines it is in the public interest to do so.

As required by FACA, the NEJAC will hold open meetings, unless the EPA Administrator determines that a meeting or a portion of a meeting may be closed to the public in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552b (c). Interested persons may attend meetings, appear before the committee as time permits, and file comments with the NEJAC.

**9. Duration and Termination:**

The NEJAC will be examined annually and will exist until the EPA Deputy Administrator determines the Council is no longer needed. This charter will be in effect for two years from the date it is filed with Congress. After this two-year period, the charter may be renewed as authorized in accordance with Section 14 of FACA (5 U.S.C. App. 2 § 14).

**10. Member Composition:**

The NEJAC will be composed of approximately 26 members. Most members will serve as representatives of non-Federal interests. Members will be selected from among, but are not limited to: community-based groups; industry and business; academic and educational institutions; State and local governments; Federally recognized Tribes and Indigenous groups; and non-governmental and environmental groups as deemed appropriate.

**11. Subgroups:**

EPA, or the NEJAC with EPA's approval, may form subcommittees or workgroups for any purpose consistent with this charter. Such subcommittees or workgroups may not work independently of the chartered committee and must report their recommendations and advice to the NEJAC for full deliberation and discussion. Subcommittees or workgroups have no authority to make decisions on behalf of the chartered committee nor can they report directly to the EPA.

August 19, 2003  
Agency Approval Date

August 21, 2003  
GSA Consultation Date

September 26, 2003  
Date Filed with Congress